

## **REMARKS**

In the Office Action, Claims 1-20 are pending and were examined. Claims 1-20 are rejected. In this Response, no claims are amended, no claims are cancelled, and no claims are added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending Claims 1-20 in view of at least the following remarks.

### **I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8, 11-14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No Biesterfeldt (7,019,551). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding the Examiner's citing of Biesterfeldt, for at least the following reasons, the Examiner is prohibited from relying on Biesterfeldt as a prior art reference.

Regarding Claim 1, Claim 1 recites a pull-down circuit coupled to the signal termination device, the pull-down circuit including a pull-down compensation resistive element, wherein the pull-up and pull-down compensation resistive elements to provide analog compensation of output driver signal slew rate against device impedance variation, such that a slew rate of a driver output signal is within a predetermined slew rate range, as in Claim 1. The features of pull-up and pull-down compensation resistive elements to provide analog compensation of output driver signal slew rate against device impedance variation, such that a slew rate of a driver output signal is within a predetermined slew rate range were conceived in the United States at least as early as July 19, 2001, as evidenced by the Invention Disclosure Form having ID #20684 and accompanying the Declarations of each inventor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, which are submitted to the Patent Office in conjunction with this response to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2007.

Applicants respectfully submit the July 19, 2001 conception date precedes the priority date of Biesterfeldt of December 27, 2001. In view of the 1.131 Declarations submitted herewith, Biesterfeldt cannot properly be cited against the pending claims. Accordingly, since Biesterfeldt cannot properly be cited against the pending claims, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of independent Claim 1.

For each of the above reasons, therefore, Claim 1, and all claims which depend from Claim 1, are patentable over the cited art, which does not include the Biesterfeldt reference, for at least the reasons provided above.

Each of Applicant's other independent claims include limitations similar to those highlighted above with reference to Claim 1. The language "the pull-up and pull-down compensation resistive elements to provide analog compensation of output driver signal slew rate against device impedance variation, such that a slew rate of a driver output signal is within a predetermined slew rate range," as in Claim 11, is also supported by the conception date of July 19, 2001, as evidenced by the Declaration of each Inventor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, submitted herewith.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-8, 11-14, 16 and 18-20.

#### DEPENDENT CLAIMS

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, Applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim.

### CONCLUSION

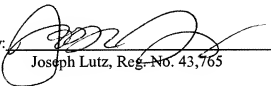
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending (1) are in proper form, (2) are neither obvious nor anticipated by the relied upon art of record, and (3) are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

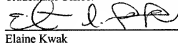
Dated: 9/25/07

By:   
Joseph Lutz, Reg. No. 43,765

1279 Oakmead Parkway  
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040  
Telephone (310) 207-3800  
Facsimile (408) 720-8383

#### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted electronically via EFS Web on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

  
Elaine Kwak

9/25/07  
Date